

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110798
ORIGIN ARA-14

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EPA:CKLEVENO (PHONE)
-----126023 012311Z /66

O R 012202Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 110798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECEM, ECON, ECSM, HO

SUBJECT: FUNGICIDE CONTROL OF BLACK SIGATOKA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1618

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN SIGNED LETTER APRIL 29
REPLYING TO DIPLOMATIC NOTE ADDRESSED TO HIM FROM
HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTING URGENT USG ACTION
TO ALLOW IMPORTATION OF BANANAS TREATED WITH FUNGICIDE
CHLOROTHALONIL. TEXT OF HONDURAN NOTE EXPANDED ON PARAS
3, 4, AND 5 OF REFTEL.

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2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING TEXT
OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER
AND TO EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF CORPORACION HONDURENA DE
BANANO, DR. VINCENTE DIAZ. ORIGINAL SIGNED LETTER FOR
SUBSEQUENT DELIVERY TO FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN POUCHED.

3. QUOTE: APRIL 29, 1978

HIS EXCELLENCY, COLONEL ROBERTO PALMA GALVEZ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF HONDURAS
TEGUCIGALPA

4. DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR
NOTE NO. OF.DASM-045 DATED MARCH 17, 1978. IN THIS
NOTE YOU DOCUMENTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BANANA CROP TO
HONDURAN ECONOMIC LIFE, OUTLINED THE SERIOUS DAMAGE
ALREADY CAUSED BY THE BLACK SIGATOKA FUNGUS, AND REQUESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZE THE
IMPORTATION INTO THE U.S. OF BANANAS AND PLANTAINS
TREATED WITH CHLOROTHALONIL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
DATE.

5. AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER ANY
RESIDUES FROM FUNGICIDES IN THE QUANTITIES FOUND IN
SPRAYED PRODUCTS ARE SAFE FOR EATING BY CONSUMERS IN
THE U.S. THE DETERMINATION OF A SAFE QUANTITY (OR
TOLERANCE) IS BASED ON DATA CONTAINED IN A PETITION.
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOLERANCE FOLLOWS A THIRTY-DAY
PERIOD DURING WHICH TIME ANYONE OTHER THAN THE PETITIONER
MAY SUBMIT OTHER DATA. THE DIAMOND SHAMROCK COMPANY
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HAS SUBMITTED SUCH A PETITION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE THIRTY-DAY PERIOD BEGAN ON
APRIL 18 WHEN THIS PETITION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE U.S.
FEDERAL REGISTER.

6. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSMITTED COPIES OF
YOUR NOTE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY. WE HAVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP
THEM AWARE OF THE URGENCY OF YOUR REQUEST. IN THIS REGARD
AND RESPONDING TO THE OFFER IN YOUR NOTE, TWO PEST
MANAGEMENT EXPERTS, ONE FROM THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTER-
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WILL VISIT HONDURAS DURING APRIL
TO EXAMINE HONDURAN PLANTATIONS AFFECTED BY BLACK SIGATOKA.
THEY WILL CONSULT WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

7. YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE OF BLACK SIGATOKA
TO THE HONDURAN ECONOMY AND OF OUR INTENTION TO DO ALL
POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN CONTROLLING THIS SERIOUS FUNGUS.

SINCERELY, (SIGNED) TERENCE A. TODMAN, ASSISTANT

SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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